

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07
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INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY BELIZE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT,XL, CO
SUBJ: NAMUCAR: COLOMBIAN SHIPPING VS NAMUCAR

REF: 75 BOGOTA 5200

1. THROUGH THE ADDITION OF ANOTHER CONTAINER VESSEL TO ITS
CARIBBEAN RORUTE SERVICE, THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL SHIPPING
LINE (LA FLOTA MERCANTE GRANCOLOMBIANA) HAS MADE CLEAR
ITS INTENT TO OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY OF THE CARIBBEAN MUL-
TINATIONAL FLEET (NAMUCAR) OF WHICH IT IS A CHARTER
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MEMBER.

2. THE NEW SHIP, WHICH WILL TRANSPORT COLOMBIAN EXPORTS
TO KINGSTON, MIAMI, BELIZE, SANTO TOMAS DE CASTILLO,
PUERTO CORTES, AND PUERTO LIMON EVERY MONTH, WILL BEGIN
SERVICE IN EARLY JANUARY, 1977. SINCE OCTOBER, 1975,

THE CNSL HAS BEEN SERVING THE CARIBBEAN REGION IN PART-
NERSHIP WITH NOPAL, A NORWEGIAN LINE.

3. THIS ENLARGING BY COLOMBIA OF HER EXPORT-CARGO
CAPABILITY IN THE CARIBBEAN UNDEMINS THE NASCENT NAMUCAR
CONSORTIUM. MOREOVER, COLOMBIA, TO DATE, HAS NOT SIGNED
THE CONSTITUTING ARTICLES OF NAMUCAR NOR HAS IT PAID THE
INITIAL MEMBERSHIP FEE OF \$500,000. THE GOC ALLEGES THAT
IT HAS NOT BECOME A FULL MEMBER DUE TO DELAYS IN OBTAINING
APPROVAL FROM ITS CONGRESS.

4. APPARENTLY, THE REASONS FOR COLOMBIA'S AMBIGUOUS
POSITION ARE FOUND IN THE GOC'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO DIVER-
SIFY ITS TRADE. EVEN THOUGH THE CARIBBEAN MULTINATIONAL
FLEET MAY HAVE HAD A CERTAIN POLITICAL ATTRACTION FOR THE
GOC, COLOMBIA'S GOAL AT EXPANDING CARIBBEAN TRADE WAS NOT
SERVED BY ITS PARTICIPATION IN NAMUCAR. CONSEQUENTLY,
COLOMBIA OPTED FOR TIS OWN SHIPPING LINE TO FURTHER ITS
OWN ECONOMIC ENDS.

5. ONE CAN EXPECT MORE DISASSOCIATING MOVES ON THE PART
OF COLOMBIA VIS-A-VIS NAMUCAR IN THE FUTURE, THOUGH
A BREAK FROM THE CONSORTIUM WOULD MOST LIKELY OCCUR ONLY
IF COLOMBIA WERE EXPELLED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES OR IF
COLOMBIA WERE STRONGLY PRESSURED TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED
MEMBER.
SANCHEZ

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